United Nations S/2009/585

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 November 2009

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1883 (2009)

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of resolution 1883 (2009), adopted on 7 August 2009, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on a quarterly basis on the fulfilment of the responsibilities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The present report is the first submitted pursuant to that resolution.

2. The report provides an update on United Nations activities in Iraq since the previous report (S/2009/393) dated 30 July 2009 pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1830 (2008). It provides a summary of key political developments during the period under review, as well as regional and international events concerning Iraq. The report provides an update on the activities of my Special Representative for Iraq, as well as operational and security matters.

II. Summary of key political and security developments in Iraq

3. On 17 August, the Independent High Electoral Commission announced the certified results of the 25 July Kurdistan regional elections, with incumbent President Masoud Barzani winning the election with a clear majority of ballots cast. The Iraqi Kurdistan Parliament officially nominated the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Barham Saleh, to serve as Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, and he was appointed by President Barzani to serve in that role on 30 September. Meanwhile, a Cabinet has been formed, which is comprised of considerably fewer ministers than in the past, owing to a consolidation of Kurdistan Regional Government ministries. I am pleased to note that these elections were held without any major security incidents and I congratulate the Electoral Commission for enabling a credible election.

4. On 19 August and 25 October, coordinated attacks targeted key Iraqi Government institutions in Baghdad, including the Iraqi Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Justice and the office of Baghdad's provincial council, resulting in the deaths of several hundred Iraqis and the injury of many more. These were the most significant attacks to occur in Iraq since the withdrawal of multinational forces from Iraqi cities at the end of June 2009, under the terms of the bilateral security agreement between the Government of Iraq and the United States

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of America. The bombings were a sombre reminder of the fragility of the political and security situation in the lead-up to the national elections, despite the noticeable improvements and progress achieved in 2008 and 2009. I condemned the senseless and indiscriminate attacks and urged all Iraqis to unite in the face of these deplorable acts and to work with heightened urgency to protect Iraq's political progress.

5. On 30 August, the Prime Minister of Iraq sent a letter to the Security Council in which he asked the Security Council to establish "an independent international commission of inquiry". In a subsequent letter to me on 25 September, Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari requested the appointment of a high-level official to assess the attacks of 19 August. On the margins of the General Assembly, I met with President Jalal Talabani on 26 September to hear the concerns of the Government of Iraq and to consider how best the United Nations could be of assistance. On 29 September, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs met with the Foreign Minister to discuss Iraq's request. Following the attacks in Baghdad on 25 October, the Foreign Minister sent me a further letter reiterating Iraq's request for a high-level official. On 28 October, in response to the request from the Government of Iraq, I announced that I would send Assistant Secretary-General Oscar Fernandez-Taranco to Iraq for preliminary consultations related to Iraq's security and sovereignty. In this regard, Mr. Fernandez-Taranco led a team to Baghdad from 1 to 4 November and met with the Prime Minister of Iraq, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, National Security and the Interior, as well as a number of other high-ranking officials.

6. In the aftermath of the 19 August attacks, the Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Manouchehr Mottaki, and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoğlu, met separately with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and Syrian President Bashar al-Asad in Baghdad and Damascus, respectively. Subsequently, under the auspices of Turkey and the League of Arab States, meetings between the two sides were held in Cairo on 9 September, in Ankara on 15 September and in Istanbul on 17 September as well as on the margins of the General Assembly on 25 September. The talks were inconclusive. On 14 October, the Ministers of the Interior of the region met for the sixth time in Cairo and called for efforts to support the security and stability of Iraq.

7. During the reporting period, political disagreements in the Ninewa governorate remained a matter of concern. Deputy Prime Minister, Rafi al-Issawi, continued to broker an end to the boycott of the Ninewa provincial council by the Ninewa Brotherhood List and to reduce tensions that remained between the Ninewa Brotherhood List and the Governor's al-Hadba National List. The Deputy Prime Minister made regular visits to the Ninewa governorate and the Kurdistan region to meet with members of the parties and convened meetings with representatives from both parties in Baghdad. Parallel to these political discussions, he also worked towards increasing the number of locally recruited Iraqi army and police forces in the Ninewa governorate, as well as facilitated the release of unspent allocated funds in the budget to governorate authorities.

8. In an effort to improve the level of security cooperation in the disputed areas in northern Iraq, the multinational force in Iraq (MNF-I) has engaged the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government in discussions on developing cooperative frameworks for Iraqi army and Kurdish Peshmerga units and police forces from both sides. These efforts aim to improve coordination among different chains of command for units manning checkpoints and to conduct joint patrols in the area. Although the plan remains under evaluation and discussions are

ongoing among the parties concerned, the initiative represents an important confidence-building measure that could serve to increase coordination and improve the efficacy of crisis management.

9. During the reporting period, there were concerns that delays in the passage of an amended Electoral Law could jeopardize the viability of holding elections by January 2010 as stipulated by the Constitutional Court of Iraq. There were strong differences among political blocs in the Council of Representatives, in particular over whether the electoral system will rely on open or closed lists and on how to handle concerns about the voter registry in Kirkuk arising from allegations of demographic manipulations of the voter registry lists by different ethnic communities. In his statement on 21 October, my Special Representative for Iraq expressed his concern that further delays could considerably disrupt the electoral calendar. On 8 November, after several weeks of intense negotiations, and technical assistance from UNAMI, an agreement was finally reached in the Council of Representatives. A total of 141 parliamentarians voted for amendments to the Electoral Law. This agreement paves the way for national elections to be held in January 2010, the exact date to be announced by the Presidency Council.

10. In the lead-up to the national elections, the major political blocs and parties have been engaged in a process of realignment and alliance formation. On 24 August, the formation of the Iraqi National Alliance was announced in Baghdad. The Alliance is comprised of the two largest blocs from the previous United Iraqi Alliance: the Islamic Supreme Council for Iraq and the Sadrist Trend. Other members include the Fadhila Party, the National Reform Trend led by former Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Ja'affari, and a relatively small breakaway faction of the Da'wa Party. Prime Minister al-Maliki relaunched the State of Law Coalition on 1 October, which will comprise his faction of the Da'wa party, the Independent Bloc led by Minister of Oil Hussein Shahristani and numerous additional smaller parties. The deadline for the formation of coalitions was extended until 4 November.

11. On 17 October, the Tawafuq List, which is the largest predominately Sunni bloc in the current Council of Representatives, announced a new Tawafuq Alliance to be led by the Secretary-General of the Iraqi Islamic Party, Osama al-Tikriti. The new configuration consists of the Iraqi Islamic Party, the Ahl al-Iraq Gathering, the Turkmen Justice Party and other entities, parties and personalities. Prior to the announcement, several members of the Tawafuq List split away from the coalition, and on 12 September, Vice-President Tariq al-Hashimi, former head of the Iraqi Islamic Party, announced the formation of a new political bloc called the Renewal List which includes other members of the Council of Representatives formerly associated with the Iraqi Islamic Party.

III. Activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

A. Political and constitutional activities

12. My new Special Representative to Iraq, Ad Melkert, assumed his full duties in Baghdad on 21 August 2009. During the reporting period, he engaged in wide-ranging consultations with officials from the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government and the diplomatic community in Baghdad. His activities and those of the Mission focused on promoting political dialogue between the

Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government on outstanding issues and on ensuring that preparations were in order for the national elections planned for January 2010.

13. My Special Representative conducted a series of visits to several of the country governorates. These visits included Najaf, where he met with political and religious leaders, including Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and Grand Ayatollah al-Hakim. Visits to Mosul and Kirkuk and meetings with local government officials and representatives from minority communities highlighted the multidimensional commitment of the United Nations to supporting political dialogue, reconciliation and reconstruction issues.

14. Senior advisers to the Prime Minister of Iraq and the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government continued to meet regularly, under UNAMI auspices, through the High-Level Task Force to discuss Mission reports on disputed internal boundaries. I am pleased to note that during the reporting period, some progress has been made on initial confidence-building measures aimed at addressing the needs of the local communities in northern Iraq. The Task Force has agreed to an initial set of measures intended to expedite the processing of property claims for violations that occurred before and after 2003 in order to ensure transparent and legal arrests in the disputed areas and to guarantee the right of all Iraqis to educate their children in their mother tongue. UNAMI will continue to facilitate dialogue and promote local-level activities intended to defuse tensions, bridge differences between local and national-level representatives and link political discussions related to the resolution of the disputed territories. On the resolution of property disputes in Kirkuk, practical recommendations for implementation have been proposed by UNAMI, both in the High-Level Task Force and with local stakeholders in Kirkuk.

15. In June 2009, UNAMI completed its 2008-2009 round-table series on federalism, hydrocarbon revenue and water-sharing. The discussions were held in Baghdad and Erbil and brought together parliamentarians, ministers, and senior political and legal advisers of the Government of Iraq and of the Kurdistan Regional Government. Together with relevant members of the United Nations country team, UNAMI is currently developing integrated approaches to the issues of water resources, hydrocarbon revenue management, the rule of law and minority concerns, all of which have constitutional implications.

B. Regional dialogue

Regional developments

16. On 17 August, the Prime Minister of Iraq visited the Syrian Arab Republic. This was hailed by both countries as a historic visit. He met the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, and both leaders agreed to establish a high-level strategic cooperation council that would be led by the Prime Ministers of the two countries and would discuss a wide variety of issues, including economic and military cooperation, border security, culture and education. Iraq also agreed to help contribute to the cost of accommodating the estimated 1.4 million Iraqi refugees currently in the Syrian Arab Republic.

17. On the regional front, the first ministerial meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council between Iraq and Turkey was held in Istanbul on 17 September.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of both countries presided over a joint cabinet meeting of eight ministries from either side. Technical agreements were reached on more than 40 areas of cooperation, including environmental, trade and energy. A second meeting of the Cooperation Council was convened in Baghdad during the course of the visit to Baghdad on 15 October of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. A new set of memorandums of understanding were also signed between the two countries. These are welcome developments.

18. The deterioration of the water situation in Iraq, owing to drought and the restriction of river flows by neighbouring countries, pushed Iraq to take new initiatives on the transboundary water management issue. Prime Minister al-Maliki requested the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic during his visit to Damascus on 18 August. The Ministers of Water of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey met in Ankara on 3 September, and Turkey announced that it would increase the flow of water to Iraq and to the Syrian Arab Republic. The Speaker of Iraq's Council of Representatives, Iyad Samarai, travelled to Turkey and to the Islamic Republic of Iran to convey Iraqi concerns about existing water-sharing agreements, following which the Islamic Republic of Iran also agreed to release more water in some tributaries of the Tigris and agreed to the creation of a special bilateral committee.

19. On 27 July, just prior to the reporting period, I submitted to the Security Council my report pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1859 (2008) (S/2009/385) on the relevant facts for consideration by the Council of actions necessary for Iraq to regain the international standing it had held prior to the adoption of Security Council resolution 661 (1990). My report is still with the Council for consideration.

20. The confidence- and cooperation-building period between Iraq and Kuwait introduced last April, as outlined in my report (S/2009/539), has yielded some initial positive results, including efforts carried out by Iraq to find the remains of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals in compliance with paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999). Building the technical capacity of the Ministry of Human Rights of Iraq, with respect to mass grave excavation and the identification of missing persons through projects sponsored by UNAMI and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), will greatly contribute to efforts to locate the remains of Kuwaiti and third-country nationals. Regrettably, no progress has been made in clarifying the fate of the Kuwaiti national archives. There needs to be visible and accelerated progress by Iraq on both missing persons and property. My High-level Coordinator for the return of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the repatriation of Kuwaiti property, Gennady Tarasov, will continue to facilitate progress in cooperation with both parties and members of the Tripartite Commission. His mandate was extended by the Security Council for a further period of eight months.

21. With regard to the Iraq-Kuwait boundary maintenance project (IKBMP), the Secretariat has completed the planning for the field maintenance work and remains ready to undertake it. However, without confirmation from the Government of Iraq that it is ready to proceed, it will be difficult to establish a timetable for the field maintenance.

22. Regional interaction on border security has continued. On 14 October, the sixth meeting of Interior Ministers of Iraq and its neighbours was convened in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, and included representation from Bahrain, Egypt, the

Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, as well as representatives from the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference as observers. The Ministers reviewed the achievements made since the previous meeting and considered how to enhance mechanisms of cooperation and coordination on common security and border-related issues.

23. Meanwhile, my Special Representative also had the opportunity to meet with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Iraq and of a number of neighbouring countries at United Nations Headquarters during the general debate of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session. The discussions focused on how to ensure regional support for the country, reaffirming the commitment of UNAMI to support the Government of Iraq in strengthening ties with its neighbours and in enhancing regional cooperation in accordance with the UNAMI mandate.

C. Electoral assistance activities

24. Following the successful announcement of the results for the Kurdish parliamentary and presidential elections at the end of July, the Independent High Electoral Commission has been preparing for the nationwide parliamentary elections scheduled for January 2010. UNAMI continues to provide the Commission with expert technical advice on all aspects of the election process.

25. The first step towards ensuring a credible and accepted national election process was to update the voter registry, which took place between 22 August and 30 September, including a one-week extension to take account of the Eid festivities and in order to ensure maximum turnout. Throughout the registration period, the Commission took additional measures to increase turnout by intensifying the voter education campaign in the media and deploying mobile teams to reach out to displaced persons. As a result of these efforts, over 1.5 million Iraqis visited one of 1,082 voter registration centres to verify their data, amend details or add their names to the voter list. The Commission is currently processing approximately 40,000 data forms per day in the data entry centre in Baghdad. The updated voter list will improve accuracy by identifying voters at the polling-station level and will yet again provide Iraq with a significant safeguard against electoral fraud. In order to assist Iraqis in locating their correct polling location, the Commission has distributed almost 18 million voter information cards that inform voters where to cast their ballots on election day. Political entity registration was conducted across the country, with 296 entities registering to contest the January election, and a total of 166 entities registered with the Commission for the first time. The Commission accredited 187 domestic observer groups and the agents of 78 political entities, covering over 25,000 individual observers.

26. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq released an initial amount of $30 million necessary to support the Independent High Electoral Commission, thereby allowing crucial administrative and operational tasks, which are necessary for maintaining key activities ahead of the national elections, to continue. To aid the preparation process, members of the Board of Commissioners also undertook a study visit to Germany from 21 to 30 September to observe the national electoral process. UNOPS, working through the electoral cluster led by UNAMI and supported by the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund, continued to

implement a number of capacity-building initiatives to assist the Commission in the following areas: establishing and handing over a countrywide communication network for the Commission; providing software development for the voter registration update; and providing support to the Commission Public Outreach Department in respect of campaigns and media activities.

27. On 8 November, the Council of Representatives adopted amendments to the Electoral Law. The amendments included increasing the number of seats from 275 to 323, changing the electoral system to an open list, special measures for minority groups and an agreement on holding elections in Kirkuk.

28. The parliamentary debate on the election legal framework and the parliamentary questioning of the Independent High Electoral Commission Board concerning the January 2009 governorate council elections have led to delays in electoral preparations. Candidate nominations have been delayed and it is now more difficult to vet candidates before the election. Further safeguards (preparation of special voting lists for police, military and internally displaced persons; 10-week cascade training for 250,000 election staff; public outreach; and voter education) have been affected. Additionally, it remains unclear in which countries the Commission will conduct out-of-country voting and if, in fact, it is even possible at this late date. The Commission also remains without sufficient funds to conduct the election and any further delay in the transfer of monies could jeopardize the electoral calendar. At this stage, a technically credible election is possible in January, provided there are no additional delays, extra burdens placed on the Commission or major security incidents. UNAMI will continue to further assist the Commission with any technical advice and is committed to ensuring that preparations remain on track.

29. As the parliamentary elections near, the challenge will be to maintain not just the operational capacity of the Commission and its nationwide network of offices but also to reinforce measures aimed at reducing fraud and increasing transparency to ensure a credible electoral outcome. To this end, I also encourage political parties, civil society and interested groups to register their agents well ahead of time so as to ensure that the elections are scrutinized by as many observers as possible. This will be essential in building confidence with all stakeholders, in particular among the electorate, to ensure the successful conduct and subsequent credibility of the results.

D. Humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development

30. The efforts of the Government of Iraq to chart a clear and strategic development trajectory through the National Development Plan 2010-2014 neared finalization during the reporting period. The United Nations has continued to liaise closely with the National Development Plan High-level Committee to support the Government. In this regard, the United Nations has seconded three technical experts to the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation to assist in the National Development Plan planning process and to liaise with the United Nations. At the request of the Government, the United Nations country team provided detailed comments on 12 sectoral analysis papers intended to form the foundation of the plan and will provide further technical support. The National Development Plan has the potential to serve as a crucial statement on Iraq's reconciliation and development

priorities, according to which international support can be better unified and harmonized.

31. The United Nations views the National Development Plan as the guiding document for its future effort in Iraq. As such, UNAMI and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have continued their efforts to ensure that the process to develop Iraq's first common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2011-2014 are aligned with the National Development Plan. The analysis within the common country assessment was interlinked to the National Development Plan sectoral analysis, and the Government co-chaired the three thematic working groups of the common country assessment, covering governance, inclusive economic growth and ensuring quality essential services, alongside United Nations counterparts, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The final common country assessment document will form the basis for a United Nations Development Assistance Framework to be developed during the next quarter.

32. Capacity-building and policy formation at the national level will remain the central pillar of both United Nations work in and international support to Iraq. However, as circumstances permit, the United Nations aims to be more creative and present in order to meet local needs. It aims to do this by supporting job creation, better services and civic participation for all vulnerable groups in areas with high levels of return. Such "area-based" strategies will be a central feature of the work of UNAMI and the United Nations country team through the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework to ensure that the United Nations "delivers as one". In order to encourage the actualization of this commitment, the Government of Iraq and the United Nations are considering the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund in 2010 with a focus on transition programming. I encourage donors to explore this option in addition to ongoing bilateral arrangements to achieve the maximum possible operational coherence for the United Nations in Iraq.

33. The meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, held on 5 October and chaired by the Minister of Planning and the Government of Denmark (as Chair of the Donor Committee of the Facility), reviewed progress towards Facility closure benchmarks, including the approval of the remaining funds by 31 December 2009. My Special Representative and the Resident Coordinator presented options for a post-Facility funding and coordination mechanism, including the establishment of a new United Nations multi-donor trust fund that would build upon Facility investments to date. The proposed trust fund, to be led by the Government of Iraq, will aim at pooling financial resources for an integrated United Nations strategy to support the National Development Plan. The United Nations country team has prepared and submitted an extensive range of projects and programme activities to utilize the remaining balance of $116 million in the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund. The 9th meeting of the Donor Committee of the Facility is scheduled for 8 November in Baghdad. I sincerely thank all of the Facility's 25 donors for their extraordinary support to Iraq's recovery through this mechanism.

34. As the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq draws to a close and the National Development Plan comes into effect, the Government is seeking to find

an appropriate framework for the next phase in the management and coordination of international assistance to Iraq. To this end, Prime Minister al-Maliki has invited the United Nations, working with the Office of the Prime Minister and the international community, to develop an international assistance vision for the country guided by the spirit of the International Compact with Iraq and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. As part of this strategy, the annual review of the Compact was prepared during the reporting period with United Nations country team support, for presentation at a meeting of the Government of Iraq and its international partners on 7 November 2009. UNAMI, led by my Special Representative, and my Special Adviser on the International Compact, Ibrahim Gambari, have been engaged in intensive discussions with the Government of Iraq and the international and regional communities to elaborate on how the spirit of the International Compact might be more effectively mobilized to support Iraq's future efforts towards recovery and development.

35. Current United Nations programmatic assistance to Iraq also moved ahead swiftly during the reporting period, in particular the key programmes on private sector development and public sector modernization. UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Programme, the International Labour Organization and other participating agencies supported a comprehensive analysis of existing laws and regulations to be revised for a competitive market climate in Iraq. The programme conducted a survey of existing State-owned enterprises to develop a coherent plan for restructuring/privatizing State-owned enterprises in order to improve competitiveness and to help facilitate public-private partnerships. A midyear report on the programme was presented in October. The Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Planning also endorsed the final public sector modernization programme and established a core Government group to drive its implementation. The programme will be a central pillar of future United Nations support to Iraq, in partnership with the public finance management programme of the World Bank.

36. Preparations to hold the Iraq population and housing census in October 2009 were halted during the reporting period, owing to the technical and political challenges facing census operations. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was requested to provide urgent technical advice to the Ministry of Planning on implementation options for the census. UNFPA detailed possibilities for a census operation that would maintain the quality of the original census approach and its value for development purposes. The Council of Ministers, having considered all options, decided to postpone the census until October 2010. The census remains a critical platform for Iraq's development strategies, including the National Development Plan, and I encourage that all possible steps be taken to ensure its earliest implementation. On a positive note, I am pleased to report that, following advocacy efforts by the United Nations concerning the humanitarian and economic impact of mine-related incidents, in particular the efforts of UNDP and UNICEF, the civilian demining activities that had been suspended since December 2008 resumed during the reporting period.

37. Iraq's humanitarian needs, while gradually diminishing, remained evident during the reporting period, owing to an ongoing drought and the continued targeting of the civilian population by insurgent groups, particularly in Mosul, Kirkuk and Baghdad. United Nations agencies and their partners responded with medical supplies, food assistance and the provision of shelter for those in need. The

return of internally displaced persons and refugee returns have remained generally stable, although a slight increase in the rate of refugee returns was reported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in July and August (5,610 individuals, compared to 4,100 for the first two months of the year). Overall, an estimated 27,000 refugees and 114,930 internally displaced persons have returned so far this year, although more support is needed to ensure property and land rights, as well as reliable access to basic services for returnees. Conditions for vulnerable communities and internally displaced persons continue to remain of serious concern, as does the protection of civilians, especially of women, children and some minorities. Overall, an estimated 2.9 million Iraqis are believed to be internally displaced, while an estimated 1.7 million Iraqis have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and beyond.

38. To further expand the United Nations capacity in the most vulnerable areas, UNAMI and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs conducted a joint mission to assess vulnerabilities in the governorate of Diyala, which hosts the largest concentration of displaced persons in Iraq and where nearly 20 per cent of families are female-headed households. Preparations were also made for the joint governorate survey to be conducted as part of the Iraq knowledge network programme between the United Nations, the Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology of the Government of Iraq and non-governmental organizations, including a workshop held to select indicators, sampling frames and a timetable.

39. Funding for humanitarian action and early recovery in Iraq is still greatly needed. The 2009 consolidated appeal process for Iraq (pillar 1) is currently 44 per cent funded ($134,837,848 from the revised midyear requirement of $308,794,656). Many sectors remain critically underfunded, especially agriculture and mine action. I warmly thank all contributors and urge donors to continue to demonstrate their support. For 2010, the United Nations has developed an Iraq humanitarian action plan, with an increased focus on multisectoral localized programming and partnerships with the Government and civil society to build on the accomplishments of ongoing programmes.

40. Both humanitarian and development support is still needed to tackle Iraq's drought and desertification crisis. Rainfall remains at 50 per cent below normal levels, and river flows are low. Iraq is only generating two thirds of its required 10 million cubic metres of potable water required per day. In addition to the increased prevalence of diarrhoeal disease in 2009, typhoid has been reported in the governorates of Thi-Qar and Dohuk, summer and winter crop production has fallen and livestock are dying. The United Nations, with international and local non-governmental organizations, assisted in the drought response during the reporting period through a variety of activities ranging from short-term water delivery to longer-term water expansion activities. These included conducting 100 water tanker projects and 77 other water-related projects, including the construction of wells and the drilling of boreholes. The construction and rehabilitation of water treatment plants and sanitation networks were supported through an additional 202 projects. Hygiene-awareness campaigns were also conducted and household water filters were distributed. The expanded emergency response fund administered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has funded 19 drought response projects by non-governmental organizations.

41. To strengthen essential service delivery in Iraq and improve living conditions, the United Nations specialized funds, programmes and agencies continued to provide a broad range of interventions. UN-HABITAT launched a $70 million country programme for 2009-2011 to invest in housing, urban and community infrastructures. UN-HABITAT also moved ahead on a programme to upgrade city slums, working with the Government to draft an area plan, finalize model housing designs and set an implementation strategy with a steering committee and with the residents of the areas identified for the project. UNICEF launched a new phase of teacher training in the Iraqi Kurdistan region by implementing an accelerated learning programme for youth deprived of primary school education. The World Health Organization (WHO) trained medical personnel from Iraq's governorates on the use of sophisticated biomedical equipment and supported a large-scale prevention campaign against influenza A (H1N1) incidence in Iraq, with 172 cases (142 among members of the multinational forces) and one death reported in eight governorates as of 1 September 2009.

42. The challenges faced in eradicating poverty were exacerbated by a rise in food prices, which contributed to the poverty and vulnerability faced by many families in Iraq, according to a food price analysis report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the inter-agency analysis unit during the reporting period. Food prices in local markets doubled between 2004 and 2008, while global food prices increased by 73 per cent. The number of Iraqis living in extreme poverty rose from 15 per cent to 18 per cent between 2005 and 2007. In response, the World Food Programme commenced its response to the challenges of food insecurity and food subsidies, embarking on a Government-led initiative to reform Iraq's public distribution system and broaden food assistance to vulnerable communities.

43. To promote governance and the rule of law in Iraq, UNDP assisted the Iraqi Higher Judicial Council in installing a secure communications system to allow confidential contacts between courts as part of the agency's model courts initiative. Justices from the Council and key technical staff visited their counterparts in Singapore to gain an understanding of possible applications in Iraq of such technologies and to overcome the relative isolation of the Iraqi judiciary since 1991, which has had an impact on the ability of Iraq to modernize its judicial sector. During the reporting period, development of the first Iraqi national anti-corruption strategy continued to progress, with a focus on reviewing the financing of elections and political parties, promoting a civil service code of conduct, identifying jobs prone to corruption, ensuring the protection of witnesses and victims and bringing to light conflicts of interest. An Iraqi delegation participated in two working groups established by the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

E. Human rights activities

44. The establishment of an Independent High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq continues to move forward with the support of UNAMI. The UNAMI Human Rights Office worked closely with the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives regarding the appointment of members to the Expert Committee, which includes one member from UNAMI responsible for the selection of commissioners. By the end of September, all 15 members of the Expert Committee

had been identified and have begun work towards the establishment of the Commission. On 5 October, the members of the Expert Committee held a press conference with the UNAMI Human Rights Office announcing the establishment of the Expert Committee and inviting applications from the public for positions as commissioners. The application period will be open from 15 October to 15 November.

45. The UNAMI Human Rights Office continued to work to build the capacity of both civil society organizations and the Government of Iraq to ensure compliance with the United Nations mechanisms for reporting on human rights, in particular the preparation of the universal periodic review submission to the Human Rights Council. In early August, with the support of UNOPS, UNAMI conducted training on the universal periodic review mechanism for 25 civil society organizations representing all geographical regions of Iraq. As a result, by the end of August, the organizations were able to produce and submit, within the required time frame, the civil society report component of the process. UNAMI is also assisting the inter-ministerial committee responsible for drafting the contribution of the Government of Iraq to the universal periodic review report, expected to be submitted in November. In this context, UNAMI and UNOPS jointly organized for the committee a study visit to Bahrain, where authorities shared their own recent experiences on the universal periodic review process with the Iraqi delegation.

46. Child protection and access to social services continue to be a priority for the United Nations in Iraq. In September, the IRFI provided $3,195,000.00 to implement a joint project for strengthening protection and justice for children and young people in Iraq, which was led by UNICEF in conjunction with UNAMI and UNFPA. The project aims to develop a strategy for the juvenile justice system in Iraq through an assessment of current child protection legislation, advocating legislative reform and community involvement in actions that prevent juvenile delinquency and provide vocational training. Additionally, a project led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on building civil values and life skills for adolescents through education in Iraq continued to move ahead. Its implementation is being supported by the UNAMI Human Rights Office and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

47. Progress on the closure of the detention facilities of the multinational force and the transfer of detainees to Iraqi custody, in accordance with the bilateral security agreement between Iraq and the United States, continues to be monitored by the UNAMI Human Rights Office. Camp Bucca, once the largest detainee centre in Iraq, which held over 26,000 detainees in 2008, was closed in September and the remaining detainees were either handed over to Iraqi security forces or released. As at 1 October, there remained approximately 8,000 detainees in custody in two other multinational force facilities, Camp Taji and Camp Cropper. It is expected that the multinational force will hand over those two camps to the Iraqi authorities in January and August 2010, respectively. The UNAMI Human Rights Office also continues to visit prisons nationwide to assess the situation of detainees and their conditions to build a human rights-based training programme for prison management under their respective authorities.

48. The UNAMI Human Rights Office continues to oversee the implementation of a UNOPS project on support to the ministry of human rights in mass grave excavation and identification of missing persons. It is aimed at building the capacity

of the Ministry of Human Rights to carry out exhumations. A particular focus was placed on the excavation of sites that might contain the remains of missing Kuwaiti prisoners of war since this is part of the ongoing efforts to close the outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait. Fifteen participants from the Ministry of Human Rights and seven from the Medico-Legal Institute were trained in August and September by the International Commission for Missing Persons in Baghdad. The training focused on topics such as forensic archaeology and anthropology, database management, excavation and examination practices and the analysis of human remains.

49. With regard to the situation in Camp Ashraf, tensions escalated on 28 and 29 July between Iraqi security forces and the camp's residents who belong to the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran. When Iraqi security forces entered the Camp to establish a police station within its boundaries, the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran strongly objected and the ensuing confrontation resulted in 11 residents killed and approximately 200 wounded. Iraqi security forces further arrested and detained 36 residents, who then staged a hunger strike in conjunction with another 136 residents. On 7 October, the detainees were released and returned to the Camp, after agreeing to appear before an Iraqi court if summoned and to leave Iraq for third-country resettlement if the opportunity were made available. Subsequently, Iraqi Government officials have called for the closure of the Camp, but have repeatedly given assurances to UNAMI of their commitment to treat the residents in accordance with international humanitarian law and the principle of *non-refoulement*. In response to numerous requests UNAMI, supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has undertaken monitoring of the humanitarian situation in the Camp as part of an effort to find possible solutions involving various interested parties.

F. Operational, logistic and security issues

50. In late October 2009, the Mission welcomed a joint visit from the Departments of Field Support, of Safety and Security and of Political Affairs to conduct an assessment of the impact that the expected drawdown of the multinational force would have on the Mission, as well as of the associated agreements that provide support to United Nations operations in the country. Against this backdrop, the contract to provide the Mission with helicopters is still pending final approval from United Nations Headquarters. Given that the level of support from the multinational force is expected to decrease in the coming years, it is becoming increasingly important that the Mission obtain its own helicopters in order to access many locations across the country.

51. UNAMI has also continued to work to increase the integrated facilities available to the entire United Nations team in Iraq. Initiatives launched during the reporting period will expand the accommodation facilities available in Baghdad by the end of 2009. UNAMI continues to work closely with the relevant offices at United Nations Headquarters, in particular the Procurement Division, the Logistics Support Division and the Department of Safety and Security, for the procurement of architectural and engineering services for the design of the future integrated United Nations compound in Baghdad. The request for proposal for the construction of the compound was distributed to interested vendors, and a mandatory site visit for the potential contractors was conducted in late October 2009.

52. Overall, a decrease in security incidents occurred in the first half of July. However, the decrease was temporary since insurgent groups resumed their staging of mass casualty attacks against the civilian population, as well as targeting minority groups. The Iraqi security forces throughout Iraq were also targeted, in order to undermine the Government's efforts over the past 18 months to improve the security situation. However, during the month of Ramadan, incident levels again declined. Following the attacks on 19 August and 25 October, the Government of Iraq decided to postpone plans to increase civilian access to the international zone and reconsider other measures aimed at restoring normal life in the city. Indirect fire attacks have continued in the international zone, but at a less frequent rate than in the first part of 2009.

53. Insurgent activity in northern and central Iraq remains a concern, in particular attacks aimed at exacerbating local political tensions. Recent Iraqi security forces operations, launched in early October, saw over 200 suspects detained, including a number of alleged senior insurgent figures. The insurgent groups, in attempting to reassert themselves, have also reportedly stepped up their intimidation campaigns against local civilians to dissuade them from cooperating with the security forces.

54. The cities of Ramadi and Fallujah have remained the focus of insurgent activities in Al-Anbar region. Ramadi, in particular, experienced an increase in multiple attacks targeting Iraqi Government facilities and senior Awakening Council leaders. In Basra, Iraqi security forces continued operations targeting criminal elements affiliated with militias. As a result of these operations, large weapons caches have been located and seized. The Basra Air Station, a large MNF-I facility in the Basra area, as well as other smaller MNF-I bases in southern Iraq, have been targeted by indirect fire.

55. The UNAMI Security Section continued to work during the reporting period with counterparts in the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Field Support to adapt to the changing security context in Iraq. The challenge for UNAMI and the United Nations country team is to strengthen security arrangements and seek greater self-reliance, which may necessitate additional financial resources. These steps remain necessary and vital in maintaining the safety and security of United Nations staff, facilities and assets in Iraq, while trying, to the extent possible, to respond to the growing demand for a larger United Nations presence on the ground.

IV. Observations

56. Over the past several years, notable progress has been achieved in Iraq, in large part due to the commitment and resolve of the Government and people of the country. Iraq is now entering a crucial period and the challenge is to consolidate the hard-earned gains that have been made. Since the signing of the bilateral security agreement between Iraq and the United States, Iraqi security forces have assumed greater responsibilities and achieved progress in restricting the activities of insurgents and in shielding the Iraqi people and institutions from potential attacks. Nevertheless, the tragic loss of innocent Iraqi lives on 19 August and 25 October is a reminder of the threat from those who seek to undermine the country's continuing democratization. In the face of these and other deplorable attacks, however, the Iraqi

people have not been deterred. They have demonstrated their determination not to allow such attacks to stand in the way of democratic progress.

57. In this regard, I welcome the agreement reached on 8 November in the Council of Representatives on amendments to the Electoral Law in Iraq. Despite serious disagreements in the Council of Representatives, political leaders rose above their differences and worked together to forge an agreement that is broadly accepted across the political spectrum. I am pleased that UNAMI was able to provide the necessary technical assistance to Iraqi parliamentarians and help them to bridge the differences over the Electoral Law. With the passage of the Electoral Law, I now appeal to all political blocs and their leaders to demonstrate true statesmanship during the election campaign and participate in a spirit of national unity. I also encourage all Iraqis to exercise their right to vote in these upcoming elections which will shape their country's future.

58. Since 2003, with United Nations assistance, Iraq has managed to hold three successful elections and a national referendum, generally considered credible and broadly participatory. The peaceful conduct of provincial elections and Kurdistan Regional Government elections earlier in 2009, underscores this remarkable achievement. I firmly believe that the forthcoming national election planned for January 2010 represents a historic opportunity for Iraq and a crucial step forward for national reconciliation. It will also contribute to Iraq's political progress and could go a long way towards strengthening Iraq's sovereignty and independence. With this hope in mind, I reaffirm the United Nations commitment to continue to support and assist Iraq during the electoral process.

59. In order to bring political stability and lasting peace to the country, it is essential that the Federal Government in Baghdad and the leadership of the Iraqi Kurdistan region strive to resolve their differences through meaningful dialogue. Continuing disagreements, in particular with respect to disputed internal boundaries and the sharing of the natural resources, will hinder political progress at the national level. Not only has this become a source of tension between Iraqi and Kurdish security forces but it has also added to the deep mistrust that exists among local communities in northern Iraq. It is the responsibility of all elected representatives, especially national leaders, to work towards reducing tensions and reach political compromises. With the support of UNAMI, I hope both sides will use the High-Level Task Force to identify viable confidence-building measures and create a positive momentum towards national reconciliation.

60. The normalization of Iraq's relations with its neighbours is important for regional stability. Cooperation on a range of issues of mutual concern, including trade, energy, border security and refugees, will be vital to this end. Regional cooperation is a two-way process. Both Iraq and its neighbours will need to engage each other and demonstrate their willingness to listen to each other's concerns. I also call upon all Member States, and in particular Iraq's neighbours, to respect Iraq's sovereignty and to adhere to the principle of non-interference, a fundamental tenet of the Charter of the United Nations. For its part, and within the scope of its mandate, the United Nations is committed to supporting efforts towards a productive regional dialogue and cooperation in all key areas.

61. My report to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 1859 (2008) (S/2009/385), has been supportive of the efforts by the Government of Iraq to normalize the country's international standing in a number of ways, from

assisting in capacity-building and debt reduction under the framework of the International Compact with Iraq to United Nations assistance in promoting regional dialogue. However, I would encourage Iraq to meet its obligations under paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) and to reaffirm its land and maritime borders with Kuwait in accordance with Security Council resolutions 833 (1993) and 773 (1992). These steps could go a long way towards building confidence and further improving mutual relations with Kuwait and the wider region. They could also help to create positive momentum towards Iraq's normalization. In view of its mandate to promote regional cooperation, UNAMI, together with the wider United Nations system, is committed to supporting these efforts.

62. Following the successful conduct of national elections, there will also be a need for the Government of Iraq, together with the support of the international community, to improve the delivery of basic utilities and accelerate the pace of reconstruction and development in the country. As Iraq looks to the future, the National Development Plan should define the optimal path towards a healthier economy that raises the living standards of ordinary Iraqi citizens, while serving as a cohesive basis of engagement with the international community.

63. The National Development Plan has also given new momentum to Iraq's re-examination of existing frameworks that provide the basis for international partnership. The time has therefore come to ensure full Iraqi ownership of the development process, and in the spirit of the International Compact, to help consolidate the current frameworks in support of the Government's vision for national recovery. My Special Representative and the United Nations system will continue to assist in this regard.

64. I would like to express my continued gratitude to all national and international United Nations staff members across the country for their dedicated service. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of my Deputy Special Representative, Andrew Gilmour, as he completes his tenure in Iraq. I further welcome my new Deputy Special Representative for Iraq (humanitarian, reconstruction and development), Christine McNab, who arrived at the Mission on 1 November, and to thank Naeema al-Gasseer, WHO Representative for Iraq, who served as my acting Deputy Special Representative for the past six months. The commitment of United Nations staff in assisting the people of Iraq despite very challenging conditions stands in the best tradition of international public service.